
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 8.26.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Calm in Crisis Won Fed Job ... President Barack Obama, standing in a sweaty elementary-school gym on Martha's Vineyard, nominated Ben Bernanke for a second term as Federal Reserve chairman, the culmination of several weeks of carefully orchestrated and closely guarded discussions among the president and a handful of top advisers."

Wall Street Journal: "Bernanke Risks Some Exit Wounds ... Ben Bernanke's reappointment as chairman of the Federal Reserve has been remarkably uncontroversial, given his role at the Fed as it failed to head off one of the greatest bubbles of all time."

Wall Street Journal: "Bernanke's Second Chance ... When George W. Bush nominated Ben Bernanke to be Federal Reserve Chairman in late 2005, we wrote that there was "at least rough justice" in the fact that Mr. Bernanke would have to clean up a monetary bubble that he had helped to create. Alas, that was truer than even we feared, and yesterday President Obama rewarded Mr. Bernanke for his efforts by nominating him for a second four-year term."

The Washington Post: "Subprime Lenders Getting U.S. Subsidies, Report Says ... Many of the lenders eligible to receive billions of dollars from the government's massive foreclosure prevention program helped fuel the housing crisis by issuing risky subprime loans, according to a report to be issued Wednesday by the Center for Public Integrity.

The Washington Post: "For Obama, the Only Choice for the Fed ... It would have been insane (not to be too subtle) for President Obama not to nominate Ben Bernanke to a second term as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. The economics dictated it; the politics dictated it."

NY Times: "Bernanke's Next Tasks Will Be Undoing His First ... As he looks forward to a second term as chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke's biggest challenge will be to undo much of what made him a hero during his first term."

NY Times: "A Second Term for Mr. Bernanke? ... Projecting an air of casual inevitability, President Obama took a break from his summer vacation on Tuesday to nominate Ben Bernanke to a second term as chairman of the Federal Reserve."

LA Times: "Housing index hints at upturn in home prices ... Home prices in Los Angeles and across the nation are showing signs of life, but it could be a short-lived recovery."

LA Times: "Bullish on Bernanke ... President Obama did the right thing Tuesday when he reappointed Ben S. Bernanke as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors."

USA Today: "Appliances get their own recycled clunkers programs ... Cash for clunkers ended this week - for cars."

USA Today: "Challenges loom for Fed chief Bernanke in second term ... Ben Bernanke dodged months of rumors Tuesday when President Obama renominated him as chairman of the Federal Reserve. But that doesn't mean the former Princeton professor will be coasting for the next four years."

The Washington Times: "Top bank regulator warns about excess risk ... Big banks and Wall Street firms appear to be taking big risks again, possibly putting taxpayers in jeopardy, thanks to generous government programs that guarantee they will get bailed out no matter how badly they bungle, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman Sheila C. Bair said in an interview Tuesday with The Washington Times. "

The Washington Times: "Home prices, confidence get a lift ... Home prices in 20 U.S. metropolitan areas increased for the second month in a row in June, providing more evidence that the crisis in the housing market may be easing after causing the worst economic downturn in seven decades."

Reuters: "Regulators prep defenses to survive bank crisis ... U.S. regulators are set to buttress their defenses this week against a slew of sick banks still facing closure and the risks to the dwindling fund that protects depositors."

Reuters: "FDIC to soften stance, luring private capital ... U.S. regulators are likely to back down from the tough stance they took a month ago on rules for auctions of troubled banks, which could clear the way for more private equity bidders to come back into the game."

Market Watch: "Week-to-week mortgage applications rise 7.5%: MBA ... Mortgage applications filed last week increased a seasonally adjusted 7.5% compared with the week before, boosted mainly by filings to refinance existing home loans, the Mortgage Bankers Association said Wednesday."

Forbes: "Betting Against the Fed ... The federal reserve is scrambling to convince the public that it is not a secretive institution that acts at the behest of Wall Street, but the public isn't buying the Fed's line."